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Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter
Volume 78, No. 8 September 1996

The Gull

Berkeley Waterfowl Get Good News

by Arthur Feinstein

Aquatic Park in Berkeley is the winter home to many thousands of waterfowl. Among the many species to be found there are Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, and Redhead, the last a species particularly rare in San Francisco Bay.

These birds start heading south from their Arctic breeding grounds in late September and stay in the Bay Area until late April.

Unfortunately for these birds, Aquatic Park has not been available for residency for half of this time due to its use by

waterskiers eight months of the year (the beginning of March through the end of October). As you might imagine, waterskiers cause great disturbance to ducks resting and feeding on the water and, as Aquatic Park is relatively small, there is simply not room for both uses.

Recently the Berkeley City Council was asked to reduce the duration of the waterskiing season. GGAS did not originate this request, but when we heard about it, we strongly supported it because the waterfowl were being deprived of valuable habitat during the long waterskiing season.

There was great resistance to reducing the waterskiing season (otherwise known as extending the waterfowl residency season), and the new

Berkeley Director of Recreation and Parks was evidently not sympathetic to the needs of the waterfowl. Aware of the opposition, we asked our Berkeley members to write and call the Berkeley City Council, and our members responded in glorious fashion.

GGAS also wrote a letter citing scientific evidence that the birds needed this extended period of time. The final result was an 8-1 vote in favor of Aquatic Park becoming a true waterfowl haven with a reduced waterskiing season. The birds get the home they need from October through April, and the waterskiers get the summer season, May through

Seed Sale Day

Our next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on September 27 and 28, 1996. If you wish to order seed, please fill out the seed-order form on page 9 and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, September 19. Pick-up of seed will take place Friday, September 27, 3-6 PM and Saturday, September 28, 9 AM - 1 PM at the Golden Gate Audubon Office in Berkeley.

Unfortunately for these birds, Aquatic Park has not been available for residency for half of this time due to its use by waterskiers eight months of the year

September. We believe this is a win-win situation. We hope the waterskiers think so, too.

It is evidence once again that citizen participation works. Your letters and calls *can* influence the fate of our society. Thanks to all our members who wrote and called. And thanks to the Berkeley City Councilpersons who listened to their constituents and showed compassion for our wildlife species. □

My family has been planning a reunion for a year now, and we all finally came together at Black Butte Ranch in Oregon. The birding was wonderful; so, no more "birder's torpor"! My sister and her husband found birds not seen in Florida, and my grandson Ryan, got the hang of using binoculars.

The first morning, I sat on the deck, overlooking the horse pasture and Mt. Jefferson, surrounded by Ponderosa pines and aspens. While I enjoyed the view, a pair of White-headed Woodpeckers chased one another in a courtship flirtation, talking to each other the whole time. They disturbed a Hairy Woodpecker that was working on an aspen, as Northern Flickers were calling back and forth. It must have been a haven for the woodpecker group!

A Red-tailed Hawk came to eat breakfast in the pasture, but was immediately mobbed by a band of Red-winged Blackbirds that were nesting next to the creek. The hawk got the hint, but was careful enough not to lose the rodent entree he'd snagged earlier. I also spotted a nuthatch of some sort entering a nest hole, while a Rufous Hummingbird was sipping from the nearby columbine.

One day, we hiked around a nearby lake and saw all kinds of wonderful bird life. We startled a group of five Red-breasted Mergansers resting near shore, but the Common Goldeneye that we saw was content to just bob

along on the wind-ruffled lake. Several Audubon's Warblers flitted about in the willows as well, but best of all, we spotted a female warbler, maybe Townsend's, with a huge bug in her mouth, and as we watched, we were able to discover where she was nesting! The nest was beautifully camouflaged in a small dead fir, just next to the trunk, surrounded by lichen and moss. The babies were extremely quiet, and their coloring made them blend in perfectly with the cup-shaped nest. It was a treat to find such a well-hidden treasure!

We drove twenty miles another day to Smith Rock, a famous climbing area. It's a spectacular family of cliff faces with Crooked River flowing at the base. Between watching the climbers and the swifts and swallows, it's a real pain in the neck! A group of Canada Geese were sunning themselves on a rock in the middle of the river, while a House Wren was busy buzzing and singing in the shrubs. The main attraction, however, was the Prairie Falcon skimming the ledges and cliff-tops. Luckily, we saw no rattlesnakes.

Since the babies of hole-nesting birds pop out of the hole and immediately fly away, it's a matter of sheer luck to catch the event. But our whole family got lucky as we ate breakfast one morning. Suddenly, instead of just one, there were three Pygmy Nuthatches (new on my life list), then one by one, three more emerged from the hole. They were chatting among themselves,

GGAS Would Like A New Home

GGAS is finding our current space increasingly too confining, and we would happily consider moving to a larger space. We can use your help!

If you have a building or property you might like to dispose of, please consider donating it to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. If you do so, you may be able to receive a significant tax deduction since we are a nonprofit organization.

If you, or the company you work for, has an office or a storefront for rent and can give us a good deal rentwise, we would also be interested.

Increased office space will help us increase our effectiveness. If you can help, give us a call. Thanks.



bouncing in the branches of the aspen. They then went over to the hole and peeked in, decided it was "good-bye" to the old homestead, and flew off. Thrilling!

It was the same morning that a fledgling Pine Siskin literally fell out of a tree and landed on Dick's arm. I wonder who was more surprised - the bird or Dick?!

All in all, I listed 39 species, including the beautiful Western Tanager, Brown Creepers, a Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Chickadee, and a Gray Flycatcher (also new on my list). Since I hadn't given it much thought, being up to my elbows in relatives, I was pleasantly surprised at the nice variety of birds in such a spectacular setting. It was a lot of fun looking for the unexpected.

Golden Gate Audubon Society Presents the Elsie Roemer Conservation Awards

by Arthur Feinstein

Elsie Roemer was one of our Chapter's most ardent battlers for wildlife conservation, dedicating her life to preserving wetlands in Alameda. The East Bay Regional Park District created an Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary on the Alameda Shoreline in honor of her efforts. In years when there are deserving recipients, GGAS proudly presents the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award to those who have demonstrated unusual resolve and activism in defense of our natural world.

This year GGAS is proud to honor Alan Hopkins with the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award.

Alan is one of the Bay Area's most accomplished birders. He has led our two tours to Kenya (to rave reviews from the participants.) As a birder, Alan sets a wonderful example for all other birders because he has realized that if birders don't also engage in environmental activism there will be few birds left to view. And he has put that realization into action.

Alan has led the way in educating our community about the impacts of feral cats (domestic cats released into the wild). In case you are ignorant of this issue, studies have shown that feral cats kill hundreds of millions of birds every year, a truly frightening number. Alan, in fact, was the first to document a precipitous decline in California Quail populations in San Francisco's

Golden Gate Park due to cat predation.

Two years ago Alan, working with the state legislature and with Humane Societies, attempted to pass legislation that would have helped control and minimize such colonies. These efforts were narrowly but sadly defeated.

Alan continues the fight on this issue and has helped start a new organization called the Native Species Network specifically to address such impacts to our native species.

As a GGAS member, Alan continues to work to save our bird habitat in San Francisco. He is one of our leaders in the fight to restore a Crissy Fields wetland.

In Golden Gate Park, and many other San Francisco City Parks, errant management by the San Francisco Recreation and

helping develop a program to address this serious problem. (San Francisco provides habitat to over 200 avian species and has been one of the great secrets of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area.)

Alan has helped GGAS take part in the Glen Canyon planning effort (riparian habitat at risk) and in the Sustainable San Francisco effort that has produced a document illustrating the importance of preserving San Francisco's wildlife habitat.

It was Alan's documentation of the wildlife values, and his advocacy using that data, that has helped us preserve Pier 98 in San Francisco (site of the only nesting avocets in San Francisco) and helped convince the City to put a wetlands into the Mission Bay Development Agreement (unfortunately, that Agreement is now no longer binding and the proposal to create a Mission Bay wetlands faces new threats – but that's another story).

Wherever there is a threat to wildlife in San Francisco, Alan will be involved.

Where does he find time to do all this and still earn a living? We're not sure, and we're not going to ask. We're just enormously grateful that Alan does find the time and the energy to fight to keep our natural world alive. Thanks, Alan, from all of us at GGAS.

As a GGAS member, Alan continues to work to save our bird habitat in San Francisco.

Park Department has led to a serious diminishment of wildlife habitat. Shrub undercover, a necessity for many native bird species, is being recklessly eliminated. Trees are sometimes pruned during nesting season. Horticultural plantings replace both native and non-native habitat-providing vegetation. Alan is

June 7 To July 31

Continuing north-westerly winds during most of June certainly did not improve the number of spring vagrants passing through our area. However, what was lacking in quantity during this period was certainly compensated with quality, with some exceptional birds recorded. By early June the first of the "fall" migrants began to appear, and at the time of writing, a good number of shorebirds were moving through our area. So now it's time again to study those shorebirds, looking for the unusual, and, before we know it, all of those confusing fall warblers will be moving through to challenge and torment.

Loons To Eagles

The first winter Yellow-billed Loon, found in early June, continued to be seen well into July at the Albion Field Station, Albion, MEN (VH).

A large dark petrel seen at close quarters from a research vessel about 30 miles off of Half Moon Bay, SM, on June 7 (PP, DA), was eventually noted as a probable **Parkinson's "Black" Petrel** (*Procellaria parkinsoni*). A difficult species to identify, it was at first thought to be a Westland "Black" Petrel (*Procellaria westlandia*), a similar species in the family of Procellaria petrels of the southern oceans. Although the final identification may never be fully determined, this report certainly generated a huge amount of excitement. Parkinson's Petrel

breeds in New Zealand, and according to Peter Harrison, in *Seabirds*, "appears to move eastward into the central Pacific during the Southern winter." He also notes that, "During temperature and salinity fluctuations, it could occur off Southern California and should be looked for from June to October." Other birds seen from this vessel during the same week include 2 Murphy's Petrel, 4 Laysan Albatross, and 5-6 South Polar Skua.

Other pelagic highlights for this period included reports from a trip to the Cordell Bank on July 21 which recorded 2 Murphy's Petrels at close quarters, 3-5 Laysan Albatross, 60-80 Black-footed Albatross, 1 Buller's Shearwater, at least 2 Short-tailed Shearwaters, Leach's, Ashy and Fork-tailed storm petrels, Sabine's Gulls and a pair of Craveri's Murrelets, among its many highlights (RS). A trip to the Davidson Seamount on July 28 recorded Black-footed Albatross, all three jaeger species, 150 Leach's Storm-Petrels, 2 Craveri's and 2 Xantus' murrelets (JB).

Shorebirds reported during this period included a late spring Baird's Sandpiper at the Garcia River mouth, MEN, on June 8 (JW) and an early fall Baird's at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, on July 30 (RHa). Other reports included a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Mad River County Park, HUM, on July 7 (TEa) and a Stilt Sandpiper the same day at Albany, ALA (GG).

A surprise "first" for California turned up in the form of a

White-winged Tern at the Arcata Marsh Project, Arcata, HUM. This bird, a superb adult in alternate plumage, was first found on June 22 and was seen regularly up until June 26 (RH, MOb). Just when it was thought that it may be settling in to stay for a while, it disappeared and was not seen subsequently. This constitutes the first California record for this Eurasian species and, indeed, is the only West Coast record other than a couple of records from Alaska. Black Skimmers continued to be reported from the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA. Another exciting piece of news was that of breeding Bald Eagles at Lake Del Valle near Livermore, ALA, the first breeding record for the Bay Area in over a 100 (MF).

Doves To Kingbirds

A sure sign of impending fall migration was the report of a White-winged Dove on SE Farallon, July 20 (fide KH). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCL, from July 23 to at least July 28 (SR). This species is generally confined to its breeding area, primarily the upper Sacramento River, and this is the only recent coastal record in our area. Another extreme rarity in these parts, one for which there is less than a handful of records in Northern California, was a Whippoor-will that was found by a group from Stockton at the Andrew Molera State Park, MTY, on June 22. This bird was seen

A surprise "first" for California turned up in the form of a

and heard calling through June 25 (DR).

Another "first", this time for Northern California, was a Gila Woodpecker found looking confused and uncertain as it fed among Norfolk pines and eucalyptus trees in Sutro Heights Park, San Francisco, on June 9 and 10 (DPM). This desert species in California is confined to the lower Colorado River and locally in the town of Brawley in the Imperial Valley and is generally non-migratory. However, there are two historical coastal Southern California records: Los Angeles in January 1927 and in San Bernardino County in May 1951 and more recent records for Riverside County, all giving credence to the wild and natural arrival of this bird (per JM).

A Cassin's Kingbird at Pescadero on July 13 was only the third or fourth record for San Mateo County (RST, BM). Three Eastern Kingbirds were reported the first week of July, with birds in Humboldt, San Mateo, and at Andrew Molera State Park, MTY.

Thrushes To Grackles

Another vagrant for this spring was a **Wood Thrush** present in Sacramento County at the Consumnes River Preserve from June 7 through 10 (JE). This record, if accepted, will constitute only the third or fourth Northern California record for this species and, indeed, one of a dozen or so records for the state. It is also one of the few "inland" California records for this species, most

records have been coastal. In Monterey, Gray Catbirds were banded at the Big Sur Ornithology Lab on June 13 and 18, the second and third of this species banded there this spring (JB).

A Brown Thrasher was found and remained at Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON, during the last week of June.

Red-eyed Vireos were recorded at Tunitas Creek, SM, on June 8 (RST); Pine Gulch Creek, MRN, on June 15; with another at the Phipps Country Store, Pescadero, SM, first found on June 22, and which continues at that location (NL).

While the number of vagrant warblers recorded in our area during this period did not increase substantially from the previous month, there were some good species highlights. These included a Blackpoll Warbler at the Fish Docks, PRNS, on June 19 (RS); a Prothonotary Warbler at the Andrew Molera State Park, MTY, on June 23 (DR); and up to 2 Magnolia Warblers at Elk Head, Trinidad, HUM, from June 24 to 26 (VH). Also present there at the same time was a very secretive Ovenbird, heard by many, but seen by few. Other warblers of note included a Chestnut-sided Warbler at the Andrew Molera State Park, MTY, on June 25 (JC); a **Hooded Warbler** in Arcata, HUM, on June 30 through early July (RP); a Tennessee Warbler at Limantour, PRNS, MRN, on July 13 (AF); an interesting inland Black-and-White Warbler in Siskiyou County (KS); and

The monthly *Observations* column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box or to the author. Some sightings are unconfirmed and number of birds are best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA, 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above.

This data is made possible by all the observers who contributed their reports to the *Northern California Bird Box*.

Abbreviations for Observers: DA, David Ainley; JB, Jim Booker; KB, Ken Burton; JC, Josiah Clark; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; TEa, Todd Easterla; JE, Josh Erdman; MF, Mike Feighner; AF, Anthony Fisher; GG, Gene Gerlach; SG, Steve Glover; RH, Rob Hewitt; VH, Vernon Howe; KH, Keith Hansen; RHA, Roger Harshaw; RH, Ray Hudstaff; NL, Nick Lethaby; BM, Bert McKee; JM, Joseph Morlan; DPM, Dan Murphy; RP, Roy Poucher; PP, Peter Pyle; DR, Don Roberson; SR, Steve Rottonborn; KS, Keith Slauson; RS, Rich Stallcup; RST, Ron Thorn; JW, Jerry White.

Abbreviations for Counties: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Northern Parulas in Marin, Humboldt, and San Mateo counties in June. Additionally, there were four American Redstart reports, including a breeding record in Humboldt County. Good numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with at least four in Monterey County (SR) and additional birds in San Mateo, Humboldt, and Marin counties. The only sparrows of note were interesting reports of summering Golden-crowned Sparrows in Marin, San Francisco, and Monterey counties. A male Bobolink was observed at Fort Ross, SON, on June 27 (RH). Finally, Great-tailed Grackles continued to be reported from Placer (2 birds), Mendocino, and Humboldt counties.

Fly South For The Winter!

Come join us for our second birding trip to Panama, organized in conjunction with Panama Audubon Society, February 15 to March 2, 1997! At the tropical junction between North and South America, we will seek out neotropical species in a number of habitats. We also look forward to an evening meeting with the Panama Audubon Society during the first week and dinner with members of Panama Audubon at the end of the second week. Some space is still available for week one, week two, or both.

The first week will focus on the central lowland rainforest around the Panama Canal, including Pipeline Road, the Metropolitan Nature Park, Panama Viejo Mudflats, Achiote Road and the areas near Ft. Lorenzo, and the Western Highlands near Costa Rica's border, including La Amistad International Park and Volcan Baru, in search of the Resplendent Quetzal, Bare-necked Umbrellabird, and many other neotropical species.

The second week, with five days in the remote province of Darien in the eastern part of Panama close to Colombia, will be quite a different birding experience! An air taxi charter will take us to Cana, on the lower slopes of Cerro Pirre. The lodging here will be more rustic than the fine hotels of Panama City and the Western Highlands and the birds very different. We will hike to Cerro Pirre, some three miles

and 2,500 feet above and beyond Cana and into the cloud forest. We will tent at Cerro Pirre for two nights, then return to Cana for two more nights. The Cerro Pirre is known for endemic species and the Cana area for the variety of birds of the foothills.

Our guide for both weeks will be Mr. Hernan Arauz of Panama. If the group is large enough, we will add a second Panamanian guide. Our U.S. coordinator is Miles McKey, and arrangements are being handled by Eco-Tours de Panama S.A. and Top Guides. The group is limited to 14, plus guides and staff. This trip is not designed for listers; we hope to enjoy the birds we encounter in diverse tropical habitats, rather than targeting particular species.

The costs (double occupancy), including the flights within Panama, but not including international airfare, are \$2,059 per person for Week One, and \$1,695 for Week Two. The cost includes a donation to the Golden Gate Audubon Society of \$100 for each week of the trip, to support our work with Panama Audubon. We can secure your space for either or both weeks with a \$300 deposit, made payable to and mailed to Top Guides, 1825 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707.

Please call Top Guides at 1-800-867-6777, or email: top4adven@aol.com for more information or a detailed itinerary.



Give the Gift of Magnified Sight

Inarguably, binoculars are a birder's greatest asset. Without them, the positive identification of wildlife would be impossible in many cases. And so, to help some of our bird-watching brethren in Central America, The Panama Committee has set a goal to send twenty binoculars to Panama, for workshops in which the Panama Audubon Society trains Panamanian park rangers.

Norita Scott-Pezet, president of PAS, reports that binoculars donated by GGAS and Mt. Diablo Audubon already support eight educational projects in Panama. So please clean out those closets, scout out thrift stores, and inform your friends of our needs. The binoculars need not be in perfect working order; a friend of GGAS will repair them for us.

Please call Maggie Seely at (510) 524-1191 to contribute. Thanks!



Gifts And Bequests

Stefanie Arthur, James Avila, Nome & Janis Baker, Hubert & Jean Barnes, John & Elsie Becker, Edward & Mildred Bennett, Scott Benson, James Betts, Leonard Schwab & Rita Brenner, Marcia Brockbank, May Chen, Robert Connick, Eleanor Crary, Laura Crocker, Anne Deleage, John Dickerson & Lynn MacDonald, Sheila Dickie, Maryanne Flett, Cornelia Foster, Patricia Gannon, James & Eleanor Gayner, Ann Witter Gillette, Ruth & James Gravanis, Pauline Hale, Alan Harper, Mary Harte, Karl Heins, Virginia Ingham, Carolyn Jones, John & Ann Kadyk, James & Lynn Larkin, Wayne Lazarus, Richard & Marguerite Lemmon, Luther & Virginia Linkhart, Linda Lucchi, Jean & Ernest Lucken, James Ludwig & Eileen D. Ludwig Foundation, Christine & Donald Luppino, D.B. Luten, R.M. & M.D. McNary, Meadow Wood Landscape Service, Quenby Morrow, Lennart Olsson, William & Carol Parsons, Susan Peters, Vivian & Fay Pon, Elizabeth Rieger, Krehe & Katherine Ritter, E. S. Rogers, Siobhan Ruck, Jeff & Kami Sterling, Lynn Strandberg, Emilie Strauss, Kevin & Constance Sutton, Sylvia Sykora, George & Helene Strauss Ttee, Susan Watson, Sherman Welpton, Margaret & Maurice Zeff.

For the Bird Box:
William Haven & Jane Becker-Haven, William & Harriet Fraser

For Audubon Adventures:
P.J. Watkins

For Birdathon:
Clifford Cannon, Carol Ryan, Edward Thayer

Oops! But What A Nice Oops

by Arthur Feinstein

Well, we goofed. And we send our apologies to all our many members who came out to the GGNRA Advisory Commission Public Hearing on July 17 to show support for the 20-acre wetland restoration project proposed for Crissy Field. We had been told that there would be significant opposition to this project and that we needed large numbers of supporters to convince the Commission to vote for the wetlands.

(At the last Public Hearing on this subject, there was, indeed, vociferous opposition to the wetlands proposal from dog walkers and neighbors who had been convinced, erroneously, that the wetlands threatened their dog walking area and that wetlands were evil places.)

But the opposition did not show up at the meeting. To our pleased surprise, aside from the 3 speakers supporting wind-surfing, the neighbor talking about traffic, and the neighbor attacking the wetlands (and he was the only one!), all of the approximately 240 people attending the Advisory Commission's Public Hearing appeared to be ardent supporters of the wetland proposal. It was a love-fest. What a joy to see so many people willing to take precious time out of their lives to speak up for our natural world and to support wetland restoration.

To those GGAS members who came to the Hearing, please forgive us for the lack of opposition.

We hope you don't feel that your time was wasted. It wasn't!

The Commissioners will receive many letters opposing the wetland. The opponents have not, you can be sure, given up. But seeing and hearing from such a wonderfully large number of people in support of the wetlands, we find it hard to believe that the Commissioners will say no.

When that yes vote comes in, you who were there can take pride in the fact that it was your action that helped make that "yes" vote possible. A hearty thanks to all of you from the Board of Golden Gate Audubon and from the wildlife that will find a home in the new Crissy Field Wetland. 

New Number

The Northern California Bird Box now has a new number. It can be reached by calling (415) 681-7422. Please make a note of it.

We would also like to thank all of you who have made donations to the Bird Box. However, donations are still greatly needed for to support and maintain this wonderful resource. The information it provides and records is invaluable and something we cannot afford to lose. Any size donation is appreciated. Thanks. 

Learning's for the Birds

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting September 11, 12, and 17. All classes meet 7-9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St., (415) 749-3495. Parking is free in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of "Birds of Northern California" and compiler of the recorded Northern California Rare Bird Alert sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes, and the text for all classes is "A Field Guide to the Birds of North America", second edition, by the National Geographic Society.

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts on September 17 and ends on October 29; Part B (EA105) starts on November 5 and ends on December 17.

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including flycatchers, swallows, jays, chickadees, wrens, thrushes, and thrashers. Part A (EA110) starts on September 11 and ends on October 23; Part B (EA115) starts on October 30 and ends on December 18.



The Snowy Plover Needs You!

The Western Snowy Plover was recently listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area needs volunteers for its continuing program to monitor the Western Snowy Plover on San Francisco's Ocean Beach. Volunteers can sign up to come out once every other week or once a month. Monitoring will include walking along the soft sand for 1.5 miles searching for plovers.

An important training will be held for new volunteers in September. For more information, call Mike Small at (415) 331-0744.

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of water birds including shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Part A (EA120) starts on September 12 and ends on October 24; Part B (EA125) starts on October 31 and ends on December 19.

These classes are endorsed by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Fees are \$80 for each seven-week course. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

For registration information call the San Francisco City College Continuing Education Office at (415) 561-1860. See you there!

Fall Seed Sale

Birdseed sale pick-up on September 27 & 28, 1996

Our next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on September 27 and 28, 1996. If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, **with a self-addressed stamped envelope**. Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, September 19. Pick-up of seed will take place Friday, September 27, 3-6 PM and Saturday, September 28, 9 AM -1 PM at the Golden Gate Audubon Office in Berkeley.

We will have extra seed on hand so if you didn't order enough seed, or forgot to order any seed at all, come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

Volkman seed is the best there is, it contains no waste seed and has been cleaned of debris and dust so you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS office.

The prices for both the Premium Bird Seed (millet only) and our Audubon Mix (millet and black-oil sunflower seeds) have come down appreciably since our last sale.

The Duncraft Feeder is a 16" long tube seed-feeder. We also have squirrel baffles for the Duncraft feeders and a variety of hummingbird feeders.

This year we are offering for sale the beautiful 1997 Audubon Wild Bird Calendars and the 1997 Audubon Engagement Calendars. We are pricing these calendars quite competitively: \$7.00 for the Wall Calendar and \$10.00 for the Engagement Calendar. Here's a chance to get a head start on the New Year.

We are also offering GGAS hats. These hats are black, baseball-style caps adorned with our now-famous GGAS logo. They are handsome; they're a way to show your friends that you're proud to be a member of GGAS; and you'll enjoy wearing them. These hats cost \$15. Please add \$2 for postage and handling if you want us to mail them to you.

Remember, your purchases provide an important source of income to GGAS, allowing us to continue our conservation, education, and field-trip activities. We look forward to seeing you on seed sale day.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

ORDER AND PREPAY BY SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

PICK UP FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

SEED	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN MIX <i>Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed</i>	20 lbs. 50 lbs.	\$ 8.00 \$18.00
VOLKMAN PREMIUM	20 lbs.	\$ 7.50
WILD BIRD SEED <i>Composed of only red and white millet - no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)</i>	50 lbs.	\$17.00
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs. 50 lbs.	\$18.00 \$30.00
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER CHIPS <i>(No waste!)</i>	25 lbs.	\$28.00
NIGER (THISTLE) SEED	5 lbs.	\$10.75

FEEDERS

DUNCRAFT SEED FEEDER 16"	\$28.00
THISTLE FEEDER	\$10.00
HUMMINGBIRD (window)	\$10.00
ZINGER (saucer style)	\$15.50
HUMMINGBIRD (16 oz. bottle)	\$12.00
SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")	\$ 5.50
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)	\$ 2.75
FEEDER POLE (sectional)	\$16.00

SUB-TOTAL _____

8.25% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL _____

CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS _____

POSTAGE FOR HATS _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

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Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

Except as noted, no advance registration is required for trips, and there are no limits on the number of people who may participate. For trips requiring lengthy travel or an overnight stay, however, it may be advisable to confirm prior to departure that the trip will occur as planned.

To join a trip, simply arrive at the designated meeting place, look for other birders, and join the fun!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 (LABOR DAY) COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO— EARLY FALL MIGRANTS.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot on Merrie Way (a stub street off the north end of Great Highway) above the Cliff House. We will bird the western edge of San Francisco from Sutro Baths to Lake Merced. Labor Day walks in recent years have yielded a variety of shorebirds (Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Willet, Marbled Godwit), some early fall warblers, Sooty Shearwaters, Cooper's Hawks, and kinglets. Most summer breeders (usually including Hooded Orioles) can be seen.

In observance of Labor Day, we will avoid working too hard for the birds and expect them to come to us instead. We'll finish at noon. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cool weather.
Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11| MINI-TRIP TO ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Drive. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Last year our observations included 13 species of shorebirds and two Clapper Rails. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox ((510) 351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, at Lake Merced, and in Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers, and vagrants. Bring a lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the head of Five Brooks

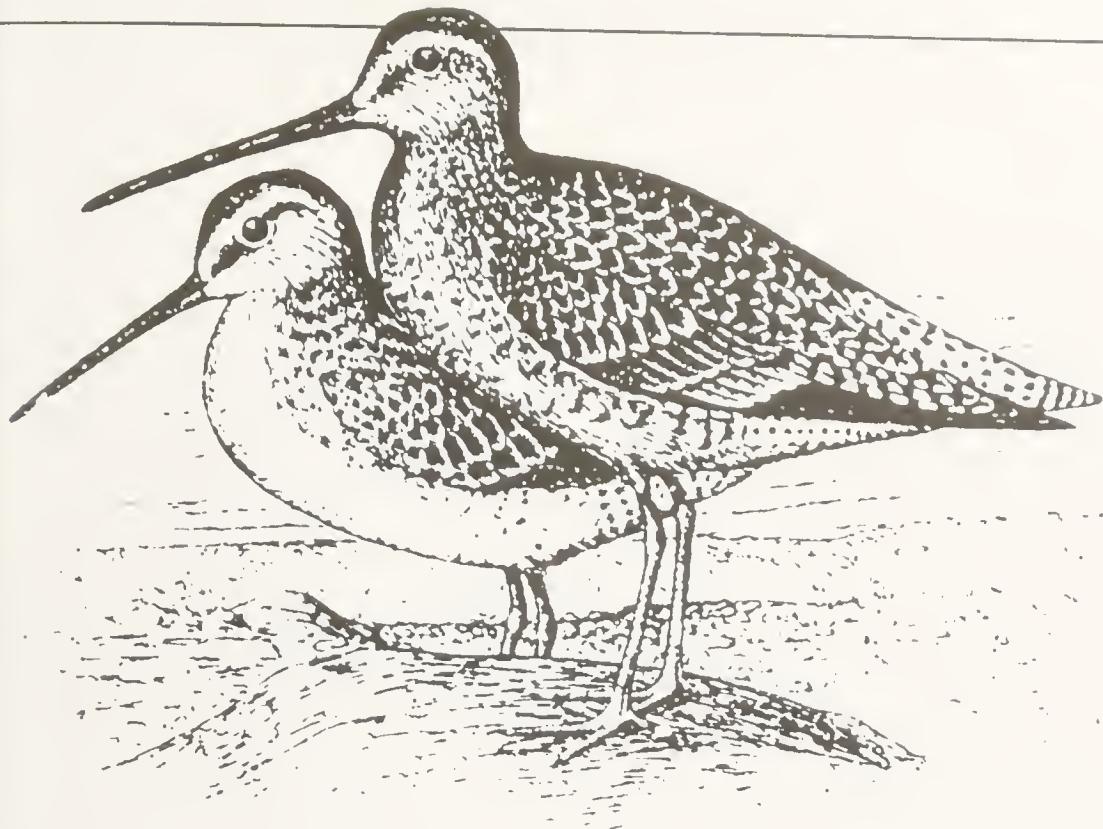
Trail, which is approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on the west side of Highway 1. We will bird the Five Brooks Pond area and Limantour Spit, concentrating mostly on migrating songbirds. Lunch (optional) at Drake's Beach. Trip will end about 1:00 p.m. Bring liquids and be prepared for cool weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 HAWK HILL, GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, MARIN COUNTY.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the middle platform of Hawk Hill (Battery 129), where we will watch for migrating hawks and landbirds until 2:00 p.m.

From San Francisco, drive north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take Alexander Avenue exit. Turn left as if returning to San Francisco, drive under the freeway, and bear to the right. Go up to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; continue (past the intersection with a road coming up from Rodeo Valley) to the large tunnels on the right. Drive to the top of the hill, park, and walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the middle platform observation point.

Rain cancels, and meeting place may be changed because of fog—watch for sign at access gate to Hawk Hill. Bring lunch and liquids. Sunscreen, a hat, and a windbreaker may be advisable. Leader: Allen Fish (415) 331-0730. (*)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 SAN MATEO COAST.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach (near the junction of Highways 1 and 84). We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and at Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants and shorebirds in the mudflats, plus Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers and tattlers and knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared for cool weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (\$)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 MINI-TRIP TO EAST BAY SHORELINE.

Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the north end of the parking lot by the Emeryville Holiday Inn, 1800 Powell Street, Emeryville. Take Interstate 80 to Powell Street exit and go west. We will be looking for shorebirds and whatever else

shows up. Last year our observations included both Ruddy and Black Turnstones. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip.

NOTE: Construction on Interstate 80 may require meeting place to be changed. See October Gull or call trip leaders for details of any changes. Leaders: Anna Wilcox ((510) 351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (*). See below.

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Jim Leak, (510) 838-8964, or Lillian Fujii, (510) 236-4167, Field Trips Committee Co-Chairpersons.

Passing the Torch

As a field trip coordinator for nearly a decade, I would like to thank the many leaders for their cooperation in the past. Their generosity in sharing time and knowledge has been greatly appreciated by the hundreds of bird enthusiasts who have followed them along the trails.

It has always been reassuring to have such a dependable pool of leaders to draw from. I've participated in many of the trips myself, so I've seen the results of their efforts. Many who followed behind them as beginners are now competent birders. Thanks again to all of you for your cooperation in the years past.

We are fortunate to have two members, Lillian Fujii and Jim Leak, who have volunteered to work together as field trip coordinators, alternating their duites. (*It is not often that you can pass the torch and light two flames!*) I'm sure they will both appreciate your continued cooperation, and hopefully other prospective leaders will call them with offers to lead future outings and expand our field trip opportunities.

Russ Wilson

September Meeting



ROSTER

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Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 9-12, 1-4
(please call first)

The Adventures of an Urban Birder!

Northbrae Community
Church
941 Alameda, Berkeley

Thursday, September 12,
7:30 p.m.

What California county has both nesting Tufted Puffins and Caspian Terns? Which county has records of Anhinga, Gila Woodpecker, Snowy Owl, and two records of Northern Wheatear? You guessed it - San Francisco!

Join Golden Gate Audubon's own Alan Hopkins at our September monthly meeting, as he shares knowledge gained in

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society
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